

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant(s):** Seiji Yamaguchi, et al.      **Examiner:** Martin A. Gottschalk  
**Serial No:** 10/042,608      **Art Unit:** 3696  
**Filed:** January 9, 2002      **Docket:** 15190  
**For:** MEDICAL PRACTICE  
INFORMATION STORAGE AND  
SEARCHING SYSTEM AND  
MEDICAL PRACTICE  
INFORMATION STORAGE  
AND SEARCHING METHOD      **Dated:** July 14, 2008  
**Conf. No.:** 7027

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

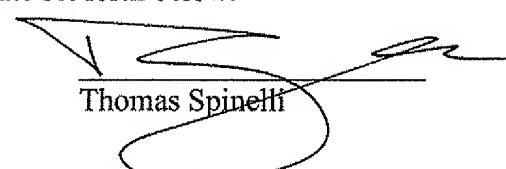
Pursuant to the restriction requirement imposed in the Official Action dated June 23, 2008, Applicants elect, with traverse, the claims of Group I, i.e., Claims 1-20, 23, 24, and 27 for continued prosecution herein.

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**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING**

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Dated: July 14, 2008

  
Thomas Spinelli

Claims 1-27 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following inventions are present in the claims:

Group I, Claims 1-20, 23, 24, and 27, drawn to a method and/or system for storing practice information, classified in class 705, subclass 3; and

Group II, Claims 21, 22, 25, and 26, drawn to a method and/or system for communicating medical institution search results, classified in class 707, subclass 3.

It is the Examiner's position that the inventions listed as Groups I and II are distinct from each other.

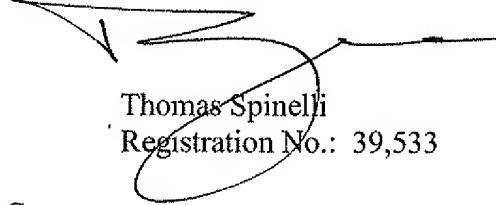
In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute the subject matter of Group I, Claims 1-20, 23, 24, and 27. However, Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

Applicants consider the election between one of the two Groups (I and II) to be improper and respectfully request that the same be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. The Examiner considers the claims of Group I to be directed to a method and/or system for storing practice information and the claims of Group II to be directed to a method and/or system for communicating medical institution search results. However, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of Groups I and II are both directed to a medical practice information searching system to search for medical practice information of a medical institution.

For at least such reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the claims of Groups I and II (1-27) be examined for continued prosecution herein.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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